



WORKER MEMORIAL DAY APRIL 28, 2009



Worker Memorial Day is observed on April 28 to remember the tens of thousands of American workers who have been hurt or killed by workplace injuries and occupational diseases and as a rededication to improving safety and health in the workplace.

In the United States:

- 5,600 workers lost their lives on the job in 2007 and,
- 50,000 died from occupational diseases
- An estimated 4.0 million private-sector workers had a nonfatal occupational injury or illness.

According to the AFL-CIO, the first Workers Memorial Day in the United States was observed in 1989. April 28 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the day of a similar remembrance in Canada. Every year, people in hundreds of communities and at worksites recognize workers who have been killed or injured on the job. Trade unionists around the world now mark April 28 as an International Day of Mourning. This is a day for all workers who have and continue to build our infrastructure.

Worldwide

According to the International Labour Organisation in Canada, across the world:

- Each year, more than two million women and men die as a result of work-related accidents and diseases
- Workers suffer approximately 270 million occupational accidents each year, and fall victim to some 160 million incidents of work-related illnesses
- Hazardous substances kill 440,000 workers annually – asbestos claims 100,000 lives

One worker dies every 15 seconds worldwide. 6,000 workers die every day. Work kills more people than wars.

Workers' Memorial Day events are held throughout the world to include: active campaigning, workplace awareness events, public events including: - speeches, multi faith religious services, laying wreathes, planting trees, unveiling monuments, balloon releases and raising public awareness of issues

More information on Worker Memorial Day and related Labor Union Activities can be found at: <http://www.aflcio.org/issues/safety/memorial/>.

